

WORKSHEET

FIRST AMENDMENT-FREEDOM OF RELIGION

YOUR TEAM HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO RESEARCH FREEDOM OF RELIGION, AS PROVIDED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3, YOU WILL NEED TO DO SOME RESEARCH. SEE IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY, CHAPTER 3 (STARTS ON PAGE 23) THE COBBLESTONE ISSUE OF OUR FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOM OF RELIGION, PAGES 1-10 OR CLASSROOM TEXTBOOKS OR ENCYCLOPEDIAS THAT DEAL WITH THE EARLY DAYS OF THE 13 COLONIES AND THE CREATION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS. INTERNET SOURCES WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER (INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION) [HTTP://WWW.CONSTITUTIONCENTER.ORG/INDEX.ASP](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/index.asp) AND NEWSEUM [HTTP://WWW.NEWSEUM.ORG/EDUCATIONCENTER/TEACHINGTOOLS/INDEX.HTM](http://www.newseum.org/educationcenter/teachingtools/index.htm) WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE BACK OF THE PAGE OR ATTACH A SHEET OF PAPER.

1. WHY WAS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IMPORTANT TO THE COLONISTS?

2. WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE COLONISTS HAD WITH RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE 13 COLONIES? HOW WAS THIS DIFFERENT IN RHODE ISLAND, VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA?

3. WHAT DOES "ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION" MEAN IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT? WHAT DOES "FREE EXERCISE" MEAN?

4. READ THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION V. BARNETTE (319 U.S. 624 (1943)) CASE:

DURING THE TIME OF WORLD WAR II, STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO RECITE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. IT WAS A DIFFICULT TIME IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BECAUSE OF THE WAR AND THE PUBLIC NEED FOR EVERYONE TO SHOW THEIR PATRIOTISM.

TWO SISTERS, MARIE AND GATHA BARNETT (THE CASE NAME IS MISPELLED IN COURT RECORDS) WERE SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE FOR REFUSING TO SALUTE THE FLAG. THESE GIRLS DID NOT SALUTE THE FLAG BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGION. JEHOVAH WITNESSES WERE TAUGHT THAT WORSHIP OF "GRAVEN IMAGES" THOSE THAT ARE NOT SACRED, IS WRONG, EVEN THE FLAG. ALL STUDENTS WITHOUT EXCEPTION WERE REQUIRED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FLAG SALUTE. THE GIRLS WERE EXPELLED AND RIDICULED BY THEIR CLASSMATES. AN INTENSE WAVE OF ANTI-WITNESS HYSTERIA HIT THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING BEATINGS, BEING FOLLOWED, JEEERED AT, FORCED TO DRINK CASTOR OIL, A MOB OF 2500 ALSO BURNED DOWN A JEHOVAH WITNESS' CHURCH IN MAINE.

ATTORNEYS FOR THE GIRLS WANTED TO OVERTURN A 1940 RULING THAT REQUIRED FORCED SALUTING OF THE FLAG. THEY FILED A CASE WITH THE SUPREME COURT WITH THE HOPES OF WINNING A NEW HEARING. ON JUNE 14, 1943, (FLAG DAY), THE JUSTICES ISSUED THEIR RULING.

HOW WOULD YOU DECIDE THIS CASE?